

**REMARKS**

This Amendment is in response to the Office Action mailed on July 22, 2004. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended, and new claim 8 has been added. The amendments and new claim are supported at Figures 4a and 5a. Accordingly, no new subject matter has been added.

Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Morin (US 3,129,479). This rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 recites a slide fastener comprising, among other things, left and right fastener element housings formed between a guide column and the left and right side parts, wherein said left and right fastener element housings prevent the fastener tapes from entering therein. Morin '479 fails to disclose or suggest at least the above feature of the slide fastener according to claim 1. Instead, Morin '479 discloses that the fastener tapes 16 and 17 pass through slider passages 14 and 15 and enter channels 20 and 21 of the slider. See Morin '479 at column 1, lines 55-66; see also the attached copy of Morin '478 directed at fastener tapes to be used with the slider of Morin '479 which provides additional contextual background with respect to the slider of Morin '479. Morin '479 specifically teaches that the fastener tapes 16 and 17 are guided into the slider body by the flanges 12 and 13. See Morin '479 at column 2, lines 27-34. Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated. Claims 2, 3, 4, 6, and 7 depend on and further limit claim 1 and, therefore, are not anticipated for the same reasons. Claim 5 is directed at a slide fastener that also includes the above-described feature; therefore, it is also not anticipated for the above-described reasons.

New claim 8 recites a slide fastener that includes, among other things, a top plate having a left side part that extends beyond a second end of the bottom plate, and the bottom plate having a first end extending upward that extends beyond the second end of the top plate. Morin '479 fails to disclose or suggest such a feature. Rather, Morin '479 discloses flanges 12 and 13 that do not extend beyond the top wall 10 or the bottom wall 11. See Morin '479 at Figures 2 and 4. Accordingly, claim 8 is not anticipated by Morin '479.

Claims 3 and 6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Morin '479 in view of Wahl (US 2,303,870). This rejection is traversed. Wahl fails to cure the defects of Morin '479 with respect to independent claims 1, 5, and 8. In particular, Wahl fails to disclose a

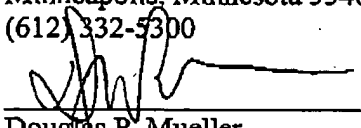
slide fastener including a left and right fastener element housing which are formed between a guide column and the left and right side parts, wherein the left and right side fastener element housings prevent the fastener tapes from entering therein. In addition, Wahl fails to disclose or suggest a slide fastener including a top plate with a left side part that extends beyond a second end of the bottom plate and a bottom plate having a first end extending upward which extends beyond the second end of the top plate. Accordingly, independent claims 1, 5, and 8 are not obvious over Morin '479 in view of Wahl.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.  
P.O. Box 2903  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903  
(612) 332-5300

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Douglas P. Mueller  
Reg. No. 30,300  
DPM/JEL:sll

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